

U.S. Patent Appln. 10/615,136
Amendment and Transmittal of Sworn
Translation filed December 29, 2004
Response to Office Action mailed September 29, 2004

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge detachably mountable on an ink-jet printing apparatus, comprising:

an ink accommodating portion ~~operable to hold~~ for holding ink;

an air passage ~~operable to make~~ through which said ink accommodating portion ~~communicate~~ communicates with the atmosphere; and

a valve mechanism, provided in said air passage, including an air-releasing valve member ~~operable to~~ that can seal a communication hole provided in a partition wall that separates an ink-accommodating-portion side of the ink cartridge, that is a side close to said ink accommodating portion, from an atmosphere side of the ink cartridge, that is a side close to said atmosphere, the valve mechanism extending in a direction from said ink-accommodating-portion side toward said atmosphere side, wherein

said air-releasing valve member has a contact portion ~~operable to open~~ that opens said air passage ~~by receiving~~ in response to an applied external force, transmitted through a part of the printing apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted on the printing apparatus, from said atmosphere side toward said ink-accommodating-portion side.

2. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~elaimed~~ in claim 1, wherein said air passage includes a winding passage and a breathable filter that repels liquid arranged in that order from said atmosphere, and

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said valve mechanism is ~~provided~~located between said filter and said ink accommodating portion.

3. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, further comprising a pressing member ~~having an elastic force for pressing that presses~~ said air-releasing valve member with an elastic force in a direction from said ink-accommodating-portion side toward said atmosphere side.

4. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, further comprising a hammer ~~operable to come~~removable about an axis and which comes into contact with said contact portion of said air-releasing valve member to open said air passage, ~~said hammer being~~ pivotal around an axis.

5. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed~~ in claim 4, wherein said hammer ~~pivots~~moves around said axis in a direction perpendicular to a mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto ~~a recording~~the printing apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, further comprising an air-releasing valve pressing member ~~operable to move that moves~~ substantially in parallel to a mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto ~~a recording~~the printing apparatus, and

said contact portion is pressed by said air-releasing valve pressing member to open said air passage.

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7. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed in claim 6~~, wherein said air-releasing valve member has a projecting portion extending along said mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto ~~said recording the printing~~ apparatus to project from said communication hole toward said atmosphere side, said projecting portion being ~~formed~~ configured so as to be pressed by said air-releasing valve pressing member.

8. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed in claim 6~~, further comprising a pressing member ~~having an elastic force for pressing that presses~~ said air-releasing valve member with an elastic force in a direction of said mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto ~~said recording the printing~~ apparatus.

9. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed in claim 4~~, further comprising:

a film located between the contact portion and the hammer,

wherein said contact portion is pressed by said hammer via ~~at~~ the film located therebetween.

10. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as ~~claimed in claim 6~~, wherein a face of a ~~room~~ section accommodating said air-releasing valve pressing member, that is pressed against ~~said recording the printing~~ apparatus, is sealed with a film.

11. (Currently amended) A vacuum-packaging product comprising:
an ink cartridge as claimed in any one of the preceding claims; and

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~~ana bag-like~~ outer packaging member ~~operable to cover~~covering said ink
cartridge, ~~said outer packaging member being like a bag,~~ wherein
a pressure inside said outer packaging member is reduced to seal said ink
cartridge.